

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-20

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TAGS: EAID

SUBJECT: PROBABLE ARRANGEMENTS BY VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT
TO FINANCE A CONTINUING U.S. PUBLIC SAFETY MISSION

1. ACCOMPANIED BY PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISER SAENZ, I CALLED THIS EVENING (APRIL 17) ON MINISTER OF INTERIOR, DR. LUIS PINERUA ORDAZ, WHO IN TURN WAS SUPPORTED BY HIS VICE MINISTER, DR. GUIDO GROOSCOR. AFTER A VERY PLEASANT CONVERSATION, IN WHICH IT DEVELOPED THAT, AS A COUNTRY BOY FROM VENEZUELA'S EASTERNMOST VILLAGE, GUIRIA, HE WAS PLEASED TO KNOW THAT I WAS THE ONE AND ONLY AMBASSADOR EVER TO VISIT HIS NATIVE TOWN, WE ESTABLISHED A GOOD RAPPORT. IT DEVELOPED THAT THE MINISTER INDEED IS INTERESTED IN RETAINING OUR PUBLIC SAFETY MISSION WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT USG WOULD PAY THE SALARY AND EXPENSES OF ONE OFFICER WHOSE MAIN DUTIES WOULD BE CONCERNED WITH THE NARCOTICS TRAFFIC; AND THAT USG WOULD CONTINUE AT LEAST FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR TO DEFRAY COSTS OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO OUR POLICE ACADEMY IN WASHINGTON.

2. MAIN PROBLEM MINISTER FACED WAS NOT OF MONEY BUT OF CONGRESSIONALLY APPROVED BUDGET WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN ADOPTED. HE THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT BY SPLITTING EXPENSES BETWEEN HIS MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO FIND THE NECESSARY AMOUNT FOR FISCAL 1975 (\$163,000) TO RETAIN OUR PRESENT MISSION

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LESS THE ONE NARCOTICS OFFICER WHO WOULD BE FINANCED

BY USG.

3. I REPLIED THAT IF THIS WERE THE CASE, I WOULD RECOMMEND TO MY GOVERNMENT THAT OFFICE SPACE CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY THE PUBLIC SAFETY MISSION BE RESERVED FOR THE SAME OFFICERS AND THEIR SOLITARY LOCAL EMPLOYEE WITHOUT RENTAL CHARGE.

4. COMMENT: I BELIEVE THIS IS A VERY GOOD DEAL FOR OUR GOVERNMENT AND THAT IF WE KEEP U.S. PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS ALTHOUGH ON VENEZUELAN PAYROLL WITHIN OUR OWN CHANCERY, WE WILL HAVE AN ELEMENT OF CONTROL WHICH OTHERWISE WOULD BE LACKING. THEREFORE, UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO THE CONTRARY, I INTEND TO LEAVE THE PUBLIC SAFETY PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE, RENT-FREE, ALTHOUGH ON VENEZUELAN PAYROLL.
MCCLINTOCK

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